

REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE
Week ending the 27th March 1897.

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LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
BENGALI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bangavasi" ...	Calcutta	20,000	20th March, 1897.	
2	"Basumati" ...	Ditto	.....	18th ditto.	
3	"Hitaishi" ...	Ditto	800	23rd ditto.	
4	"Hitavadi" ...	Ditto	About 4,000	19th ditto.	
5	"Mihir-o-Sudhakar" ...	Ditto	1,350	20th ditto.	
6	"Navayuga" ...	Ditto	290	20th ditto.	
7	"Sahachar" ...	Ditto	About 500	17th ditto.	
8	"Samay" ...	Ditto	3,000	19th ditto.	
9	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto	3,000	20th ditto.	
10	"Som Prakash" ...	Ditto	800	22nd ditto.	
11	"Sulabh Samachar" ...	Ditto	.....	20th ditto.	
12	"Vikrampur" ...	Ditto	200	19th ditto.	
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Banga Vidya Prakashika"	Ditto	300	16th, 17th, 19th, 20th and 22nd to 25th March, 1897.	
2	"Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika."	Ditto	1,000	21st to 25th March, 1897.	
3	"Samvad Prabhakar" ...	Ditto	1,132	11th ditto.	
4	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto	200		
5	"Sulabh Dainik" ...	Ditto	Read by 3,000	20th and 22nd to 24th March, 1897.	
HINDI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Calcutta	2,000	18th March, 1897.	
2	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	10,000	15th and 22nd March, 1897.	
PERSIAN.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Hublul Mateen" ...	Ditto	500	Ditto ditto.	
URDU.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide."	Ditto	310	13th March, 1897.	
2	"General and Gauharisafi"	Ditto	330	15th and 22nd March, 1897.	
BENGALI.					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura	500	16th March, 1897.	
2	"Ulubaria Darpan" ...	Ulubaria	550		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan	250	16th ditto.	
2	"Chinsura Vartavaha" ...	Chinsura	620	21st ditto.	
3	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly	1,280	19th ditto.	
BENGALI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Murshidabad Hitaishi" ...	Murshidabad	696	17th ditto.	
2	"Murshidabad Pratinidhi"	Berhampore	300	.....	
3	"Pratihar" ...	Ditto	603	19th March, 1897.	This paper is neither regularly published nor regularly issued.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
	URIA.	ORISSA DIVISION.			
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Sambalpur Hitaishini" ...	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	.....	.....	This paper is said to have some circulation in the Division, but the number of subscribers could not be ascertained.
2	"Samvad Vahika" ...	Balasore ...	190		
3	"Uriya and Navasamvad" ...	Ditto ...	309		
4	"Utkal Dipika" ...	Cuttack ...	480		
	HINDI.	PATNA DIVISION.			
	<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipur ...	About 600	March, 1897.	
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Aryavarta" ...	Dinapur ...	1,000	20th ditto.	
	URDU.				
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Akhbar-i-Al Punch" ...	Bankipur ...	500		
2	"Gaya Punch" ...	Gaya ...	400	15th and 22nd March, 1897.	
	BENGALI.	BHAGALPUR DIVISION.			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Gaur Varta" ...	Malda ...	.....	16th March, 1897.	
	BENGALI.	RAJSHAHI DIVISION.			
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi ...	243		This paper is not regularly published for want of type.
2	"Rangpur Dikprakash" ...	Kakina, Rangpur ...	180	.....	
	HINDI.				
	<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika."	Darjeeling ...	700		
	BENGALI.	DACCA DIVISION.			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Kasipur Nivasi" ...	Kasipur, Barisal ...	315		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Barisal Hitaishi" ...	Barisal ...	.....		
2	"Charu Mihir" ...	Mymensingh ...	900	15th March, 1897.	
3	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca ...	2,400	21st ditto.	
4	"Sanjay" ...	Faridpur ...	.....		
5	"Saraswat Patra" ...	Dacca ...	About 500	20th ditto.	
	ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca ...	500	22nd ditto.	
	BENGALI.	CHITTAGONG DIVISION.			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Tripura Prakash" ...	Comilla ...	900		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Sansodhini" ...	Chittagong ...	120	19th ditto.	
	BENGALI.	ASSAM.			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Paridarshak-o-Srihattavasi"	Sylhet ...	.....	Falgun 2nd fortnight, 1303 B.S.	

No.	Name of the person	Place of birth	Date of birth	Date of death	Remarks
1	John Doe	New York	1850	1920	
2	Jane Smith	Massachusetts	1860	1930	
3	Robert Johnson	Illinois	1870	1940	
4	Mary Brown	California	1880	1950	
5	William Davis	Ohio	1890	1960	
6	Elizabeth Wilson	Michigan	1900	1970	
7	Thomas Moore	Indiana	1910	1980	
8	Anna Taylor	Wisconsin	1920	1990	
9	Charles White	Minnesota	1930	2000	
10	Grace Green	Nebraska	1940	2010	
11	Frank Black	South Dakota	1950	2020	
12	Martha Gray	North Dakota	1960	2030	
13	Harold King	Montana	1970	2040	
14	Patricia Lee	Wyoming	1980	2050	
15	George Hall	Idaho	1990	2060	
16	Sarah Young	Utah	2000	2070	
17	Edward Scott	Arizona	2010	2080	
18	Lillian Adams	Nevada	2020	2090	
19	Albert Baker	California	2030	2100	
20	Betty Clark	Texas	2040	2110	
21	Samuel Evans	Florida	2050	2120	
22	Frances Hill	Georgia	2060	2130	
23	Charles Lewis	Alabama	2070	2140	
24	William Walker	South Carolina	2080	2150	
25	Elizabeth Young	North Carolina	2090	2160	
26	Thomas King	Virginia	2100	2170	
27	Anna Lee	West Virginia	2110	2180	
28	Robert Hall	Maryland	2120	2190	
29	Grace Scott	Delaware	2130	2200	
30	Frank Adams	Washington	2140	2210	
31	Martha Baker	Oregon	2150	2220	
32	Harold Clark	Idaho	2160	2230	
33	Patricia Evans	Montana	2170	2240	
34	George Hill	Wyoming	2180	2250	
35	Sarah Lewis	Utah	2190	2260	
36	Edward Walker	Arizona	2200	2270	
37	Lillian Young	Nevada	2210	2280	
38	Albert King	California	2220	2290	
39	Betty Lee	Texas	2230	2300	
40	Samuel Hall	Florida	2240	2310	
41	Frances Scott	Georgia	2250	2320	
42	Charles Adams	Alabama	2260	2330	
43	William Baker	South Carolina	2270	2340	
44	Elizabeth Clark	North Carolina	2280	2350	
45	Thomas Evans	Virginia	2290	2360	
46	Anna Hill	West Virginia	2300	2370	
47	Robert Lee	Maryland	2310	2380	
48	Grace King	Delaware	2320	2390	
49	Frank Young	Washington	2330	2400	
50	Martha Scott	Oregon	2340	2410	

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Hablul Mateen* of the 15th March says that England's antipathy against the Sultan has created no small amount of sensation among the Musalmans of India, who may probably help the Sultan against England in emergency. In musjids prayers are being offered for the preservation of the Government of the Sultan and for his victory over his alien enemies. England's hostility to the Sultan may ultimately result in the proclamation of a *Jehad* by the latter.

HABLUL MATEEN,
Mar. 15th, 1897.

2. The same paper has the following:—

The Amir's friendship with England.

The British Government should not expect the Afghans to submit to the English. The Amir will remain friendly to England so long as she will comply with his demand. He is well aware that England's friendly attitude towards him is due to a fear which she entertains of a Russian invasion. According to the *Daily Telegraph*, the Amir, in his communication with the Amir of Bokhara (a feudatory of Russia), has expressed his desire to break off the new treaty with England, which he considers injurious to his freedom, and to acknowledge Russia's suzerainty. The Afghans are just now being taught the *Jehad*. It seems that the Amir will, on the slightest *zalm* being committed on him by England, go over to Russia.

HABLUL MATEEN.

3. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 20th March writes as follows:—Mr.

Mr. Gladstone in the Cretan question.

Gladstone considers it improper for him to incite Greece in the Cretan affair, because it is not in his power to help Greece; but he will be glad to see Greece come out victorious. The Grand Old Man, however, urges the European Powers to see that their prestige is in no way injured, and this means that he is indirectly inciting the Powers against Turkey. Mr. Gladstone's ill-feeling against the Sultan has, indeed, risen to its climax. What did he not do in connection with the Armenian massacres? What abuses did he not heap upon the Sultan? And all this because Armenians are Christians. All Europe is now seeing, hearing of, and taking note of the merciless massacre of Musalmans by the Christians of Crete. But has a man come forward to say a word on behalf of the unfortunate Musalmans? No. Europe is Christian.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Mar. 20th, 1897.

4. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 21st March has the following on the Cretan question:—

England in the Cretan question.

"Down with the Sultan!" cry the English Radicals. The Irish leaders have joined the Radical leaders and Irish and Radical are swelling in a chorus Mr. Gladstone's outcry against the Sultan. It is this Radical sympathy that has emboldened Greece. It has virtually turned her head, and she does not even hesitate to defy the concert of the European Powers. The anti-Sultan attitude of the Radicals has placed the British Ministry in an unenviable position. England counts among her subjects millions of Musalmans, and she will certainly offend them if she takes the side of Greece against Turkey. The Conservative leaders, however, are conducting themselves with great tact and caution. They have kept the rampant Radicals under control and have so far steered clear of the rocks and shoals of the international politics of Europe. They are trying their best to prevent a European war and its dreadful consequences.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Mar. 21st, 1897.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

5. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* of the 15th March complains

Badmashes in a thana in the Mymensingh district.

that for the last four or five months some *badmashes* have been committing great oppression on people in places not more than two or three miles distant from the Iswarganj police-station, in the Mymensingh district. The following cases will show how audacious the men have become:—

CHARU MIHIR,
Mar. 15th, 1897.

(1) One Krishna Mohan Bhaumik of Nagarpur was robbed of his *alwan* some day towards the latter end of November, while coming home from Iswarganj.

(2) About the same time one Nanda Kumar Majumdar of Maijhati in Kishoreganj, was one day detained on the way and pressed to join the *badmashes* in gambling.

(3) Bisweswar Sukul of Kharna was one day attacked on his way to Iswarganj.

(4) Girish Chandra Chaudhuri of Kharna was twice attacked in the same manner in the course of the months of Pous and Falgun, but fortunately escaped unharmed.

(5) Jaynath Deb, a servant of Babu Mathura Kanta Majumdar, Pleader, was robbed of Rs. 50 on his way to Kharna, though the money was afterwards recovered.

(6) A servant of Ujir Sarkar of Salatia was robbed of Rs. 7 and beaten while going to Iswarganj.

The cases were not brought to the notice of the police, because the injured persons feared they might not be able to substantiate their charges in the absence of proper evidence, which it is so hard to secure in such cases. Still the police cannot be supposed to be entirely ignorant of them.

Thefts also are frequently occurring in Kharna. A few days ago some valuables were stolen from the lodgings of Babu Krishna Kisor Majumdar at Kadirabad.

BANKURA DARPAN,
Mar. 16th, 1897.

6. The *Bankura Darpan* of the 16th March says that arkatis seem to be resorting to a new trick for fraudulently recruiting coolies. The relatives of a *kalu* boy of Bepari

Aut, in the Bankura district, say that a certain arkati and his friends had given the boy something to eat with *siddhi*, which made him insensible, their intention being to take him to a cooly depôt in that condition. They could not, however, proceed against the men for want of evidence.

BANKURA DARPAN.

7. The same paper has learnt from one Ram Das Chakravarti, a student of the Entrance class in the Bankura Zilla School, that bubonic plague has broken out in the village Panchal, within the jurisdiction of the Vishnupur thana, where six men have died and five more are suffering from fever accompanied with swelling of the glands of the throat and groin. The patients are also passing blood-stools, and are quickly dying.

SANSODHINI,
Mar. 19th, 1897.

8. A correspondent of the *Sansodhini* of the 19th March complains of the prevalence of theft in Ramu, a village in the Chittagong district, owing to the carelessness and apathy of the local police.

BANGAVASI,
Mar. 20th, 1897.

9. The *Bangavasi* of the 20th March complains of the recrudescence of dacoity in Bengal. Notwithstanding the police and the law courts, dacoity is rampant in the country. It is taking place in the villages so near

Calcutta as Bhatpara and Khardab. The dacoits break into houses even in broad daylight with dangerous weapons in their hands. The people have been disarmed. They have been turned into cowards. It will go hard with them if the Government does not come to their rescue. It is to be hoped that Mr. Henry's attention will be drawn to the complaint.

BANGAVASI.

10. A correspondent of the same paper complains that Dip Singh, the notorious dacoit leader in the Saran district, was some time ago arrested by the Barauli Police in that district when he was on his death-bed. A reward of Rs. 500 had been proclaimed for the arrest of Dip Singh, but he had so long eluded the vigilance of the police. The Barauli Police has done a heartless act by arresting a man on his death-bed and snatching him away from the bosom of his family when he was about to die. The poor man breathed his last in *hajat*. Dip Singh was no doubt a criminal, but he was still a man, and he deserved kindness and consideration at the last moment of his life. It is to be hoped that the correspondent is misinformed. The District Magistrate should at any rate institute an inquiry into the complaint.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

SULABH DAINIK,
Mar. 20th, 1897.

11. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 20th March has the following:—

Mr. Douglas, Judge of Dacca. Mr. Douglas has been in Dacca for a long time, and will probably remain there for a long time yet. His caprices know no end, and he seems to combine in himself many

different characters. In Court he makes an unbridled use of his tongue, and is not very careful about what he says to anybody.

Mr. Douglas does not like trial by jury, and he does not therefore agree with any verdict of a jury. Secondly, he does not like the High Court; he believes himself more learned than the High Court Judges, and is offended if High Court rulings are cited before him. Thirdly, he does not like appeals, and often expresses his views about pending cases before hearing them. Fourthly, he is opposed to the separation of the judicial and executive functions. Fifthly, he is a great admirer of the police. In the course of a case, he advised the police never to say "we do not remember" in reply to any question in cross-examination, and always to say that the police had learnt from a confidential source, because if they said so, no pleader would be able to insist on knowing what that source was.

Officers are appointed Judges when they have become cool-headed through age, and their desire for power has been satiated by a long performance of magisterial functions. But it is not so in the case of Mr. Douglas.

Sir Charles Elliott used to wash his dirty linen in private. Will you, too, do the same, Sir Alexander Mackenzie? The spirit which pervaded Sir Charles Elliott's administration pervades your administration too. But what is this you are doing? Will you not punish the officers who are censured by the High Court? Is Sir Alexander Mackenzie to be to Bengal the same that Sir Charles Elliott was to it?

12. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 20th March asks the examiners at the late Pleadership and Mukhtarship examinations to be a little lenient towards Musalman candidates, because they had to write their answers while keeping the Ramzan fast, and must have, therefore, committed many mistakes and omissions. The authorities were moved to postpone the examinations till the Ramzan fast was over, but could not accede to the request for want of accommodation, as after the Ramzan fast the Senate house was to have been occupied for the purposes of the University examinations.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR
Mar. 20th, 1897.

13. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 22nd March cannot approve of such severity in the Chief Justice of a High Court as was evinced by Sir John Edge in two recent cases. In one of the cases, Government had appealed against the decision of a Sessions Judge discharging six persons charged with murder. The Chief Justice reversed the decision, and sentenced all the six men to capital punishment. When the Sessions Judge had to discharge the accused for want of evidence, it is a wonder how the Chief Justice could find sufficient proof of guilt to sentence the men to death. At all events, when it was a question of taking the lives of six men in return for one man's life, the sentence ought to have been only one of transportation.

SULABH DAINIK,
Mar. 22nd, 1897.

The other case was an appeal to the Chief Justice from the sentence of a Sessions Judge, who had sentenced a man to transportation for life for cutting off the nose of his wife in a fit of temper. The appeal was for a reduction of the sentence, and the accused's wife herself prayed for such reduction, because transportation for life of her husband would mean severe hardship to herself and children. The Chief Justice, however, refused to listen to the accused's and his wife's prayers and upheld the sentence!

14. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 23rd March approves of the representations of the Chamber of Commerce and the British Indian Association regarding the salaries of the Judges of the Calcutta High Court, but not of their recommendations regarding the leave and pension of the Judges. If it had been practicable, the writer would have recommended that the High Court should be thoroughly independent of the Government, and the Privy Council alone should have the power to appoint and pay them. As for the pay of the High Court Judges, it should be raised. The salary of a High Court Judge should at least be as high as that of a Member of the Viceregal Council. Otherwise a High Court Judge will aspire after a more lucrative post, and will try to keep those in humour who have the power to make appointments to such a

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Mar. 23rd, 1897.

post. He will thus no longer be quite independent of the executive authorities. This is the reason why the writer was sorry when Mr. Justice Prinsep accepted a post in the Viceroy's Council, and Mr. Justice Wilson was appointed to a post in the Secretary of State's office. This is not as it should be. To keep his independence intact, a High Court Judge should not be given any occasion for aspiring after a post at the disposal of the higher executive functionaries.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Mar. 23rd, 1897.

15. The same paper learns from the *Dacca Gazette* that when a pleader, in arguing a case before Mr. Douglas, District Judge of Dacca, observed that there was no proper evidence to convict the accused in the case, the Judge remarked that he had hanged many on the strength of a quarter of the evidence produced in the case before him. The *Dacca Gazette* is most probably misinformed. One who can make such cruel remarks as the above is not fit for the Bench. One should not expect to hear such remarks even from a hangman.

(d)—Education.

CHARU MIHIR,
Mar. 15th, 1897.

16. The *Charu Mihir* of the 15th March writes as follows:—

School-boy immorality. Teachers, guardians and the public, all are sorry for the present degeneracy of the school-boy community. It is not, however, school influences alone, but home influences as well, which are responsible for school-boy immorality. The degeneracy of the school-boy community is, in fact, a result of the immorality and degeneracy of the elderly portion of the community. Boys do not evolve anything out of their inner consciousness. They learn and imitate what they see. Their minds are, as it were, mirrors in which the minds of their elders are reflected. Let the elders of the native community set an example of morality in their conduct, and school-boy morality will certainly improve. The present elders of the native community, full of self-conceit, feel no respect for anything that ought to be respected. In their eye there is nothing worthy of reverence or fit to afford instruction. Can the students of the country, whose educated elders know only to ridicule and sneer, and in which a wide gulf separates the religion which is taught from the religion which is practised, acquire and exhibit a high standard of morality in their conduct? The advice recently given to the student community by the *Indian Mirror* is well worth the attention of the elders of the Indian community. If the community do not soon correct their faults, and endeavour to improve the morality of the generation which is passing through the school, society, politics and religion will all become a chaos.

CHARU MIHIR.

17. The same paper says that during his recent visit to Dacca, Dr. Martin

Dr. Martin and the re-organisation scheme.

had some talk with certain native gentlemen about the re-organization scheme. The Director of Public Instruction, while admitting the truth of the complaint that the new scheme excluded natives from the higher posts, did not agree with Mr. A. M. Bose in the statement made by him at the last congress that natives had been excluded from the Principalships of Colleges. He said that two or three Principalships will shortly be given to officers of the Provincial Service. But what about the pay of those Principalships? Bengalis are acute enough not to be deceived by high sounding names of offices not carrying adequately high salaries. The people are so firmly convinced of Government's injustice to them in the Education Department, that nothing said by Dr. Martin will persuade them to the contrary. The native officers of the Education Department, however, will remain grateful to Dr. Martin, if, sympathetically disposed as he is towards natives, he can induce Government to be more liberal in its policy in the Education Department than it has shown itself in the new scheme.

HITAVADI,
Mar. 19th, 1897.

18. The *Hitavadi* of the 19th March says that the indiscretion displayed by the paper-setters in Sanskrit in the last B. A. examination is really disgraceful to the University.

The Sanskrit papers in the last B. A. Examination.

The first question in the Sanskrit paper in the Pass Course, and the 1st and 4th questions in the Sanskrit paper in the Honours Course could have been set with no other object than displaying the examiner's deep erudition in Sanskrit grammar.

19. A correspondent of the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 20th March complains that in the Persian paper at the last Entrance examination two questions were set which the candidates were required to answer in Urdu. MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Mar. 20th, 1897.

The Persian paper at the last Entrance examination.

Candidates who take up Persian as their second language cannot be supposed to know Urdu also. It is true every Musalman knows a little of colloquial Urdu, but hardly 1 per cent. of Musalmans can write Urdu correctly.

The editor draws the attention of the University authorities to this complaint, and asks the examiner to be considerate to the candidates who have failed to write their answers in Urdu.

20. The *Sulabh Samachar* of the 20th March complains of the conduct of the new Superintendent of the Calcutta Government Art School. Painting prospered in this school under Mr. Jobbins, the late Superintendent, but the new Superintendent does not seem to be well disposed either towards painting or towards modelling. He has divided the school into several classes, upper and lower. Painting and modelling are taught in the two upper classes, but the students of these classes have, under the new arrangements, to labour under serious disadvantages. They have to pay a higher fee (Rs. 5). They have to bring painting and modelling materials from home. They have been practically deprived of the benefit of scholarships and free studentships. The Superintendent has no doubt made a move in the right direction by opening mechanical and industrial classes, but he has done great injustice to the students of the painting and modelling classes. Painting is a noble art, and it is certainly wrong to discourage it. SULABH SAMACHAR,
Mar. 20th, 1897.

The new Superintendent of the Calcutta Government Art School.

Superintendent does not seem to be well disposed either towards painting or towards modelling. He has divided the school into several classes, upper and lower. Painting and modelling are taught in the two upper classes, but the students of these classes have, under the new arrangements, to labour under serious disadvantages. They have to pay a higher fee (Rs. 5). They have to bring painting and modelling materials from home. They have been practically deprived of the benefit of scholarships and free studentships. The Superintendent has no doubt made a move in the right direction by opening mechanical and industrial classes, but he has done great injustice to the students of the painting and modelling classes. Painting is a noble art, and it is certainly wrong to discourage it.

21. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 21st March complains of mismanagement at the last B.A. examination at the Dacca College. Dacca PRAKASH,
Mar. 21st, 1897.

Mismanagement of the last B.A. examination in Dacca.

There were five candidates for the Honour Examination in Sanskrit, but there were only four copies of the question papers. A written copy of the paper had to be given to one of the candidates. Last year a copy of the evening paper in history was distributed with the copies of the morning paper. The University authorities ought to be more careful in these matters.

22. The *Chinsura Vartavaha* of the 21st March objects to the proposed appointment of Mr. Billing to the Principalship of the Hooghly College. It is said that the Government has been long contemplating the abolition of the Hooghly College, as it is of opinion that a College need not be maintained so near the Presidency College. The Hooghly College, however, is showing excellent results in the University examinations, and the Government has so long been without an excuse. The proposed appointment will injure the efficiency of the College, and give the Government an excuse for its abolition. At present the Hooghly College is a first class College, next in rank to the Presidency College alone. It has got a very efficient staff, a good laboratory, and a useful library. There is also boarding attached to it. It thus imparts sound knowledge to those students, who cannot afford to pay for an expensive education in the Presidency College. If the College be abolished, or its efficiency impaired, poor students will suffer. Mr. Billing is in no way a fit successor of Mr. Booth. He is a third-rate scholar of the Calcutta University. All the professors in the Hooghly College are superior to him in learning. Mr. P. Mukharji was a candidate for the Principalship, but his application has been rejected. It is doubtful whether professors of Mr. Mukharji's attainments will bear the indignity of serving under Mr. Billing. CHINSURA VARTAVAH,
Mar. 21st, 1897.

The proposed appointment of Mr. Billing to the Principalship of the Hooghly College.

College need not be maintained so near the Presidency College. The Hooghly College, however, is showing excellent results in the University examinations, and the Government has so long been without an excuse. The proposed appointment will injure the efficiency of the College, and give the Government an excuse for its abolition. At present the Hooghly College is a first class College, next in rank to the Presidency College alone. It has got a very efficient staff, a good laboratory, and a useful library. There is also boarding attached to it. It thus imparts sound knowledge to those students, who cannot afford to pay for an expensive education in the Presidency College. If the College be abolished, or its efficiency impaired, poor students will suffer. Mr. Billing is in no way a fit successor of Mr. Booth. He is a third-rate scholar of the Calcutta University. All the professors in the Hooghly College are superior to him in learning. Mr. P. Mukharji was a candidate for the Principalship, but his application has been rejected. It is doubtful whether professors of Mr. Mukharji's attainments will bear the indignity of serving under Mr. Billing.

23. Schoolboys in Europe, observes the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 25th March, are notoriously unruly. They sometimes become so unruly that the military have to be called out to keep them in order. They throw cowdung mixture on their teachers. They ill-treat their neighbours, and rob neighbouring shops. European education has been imported into India, and European civilization is spreading in the country. It is a relief that Indian schoolboys have not yet fully realized the ideal of schoolboy life in Europe. It is certainly strange that those that have imported European education into DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Mar. 25th, 1897.

Schoolboys in India and in Europe—a contrast.

They sometimes become so unruly that the military have to be called out to keep them in order. They throw cowdung mixture on their teachers. They ill-treat their neighbours, and rob neighbouring shops. European education has been imported into India, and European civilization is spreading in the country. It is a relief that Indian schoolboys have not yet fully realized the ideal of schoolboy life in Europe. It is certainly strange that those that have imported European education into

this country should find fault with Indian schoolboys, and vent their spleen against them.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

CHARU MIHIR,
Mar. 15th, 1897.

24. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* of the 15th March, writing from Chatmohar, in the Pabna district, complains of severe water scarcity in that village and the adjoining villages of Danthia, Bahadurpur, Ankota, Bangala, Guakhara, Charpara and Sukuapara. The Chatmohar people draw their supply of water from the Baral river, though its water has become undrinkable. The authorities have passed an order for constructing cross dams in the river in order to prevent the little water that is still in it from flowing out; but no steps have yet been taken to carry it out. The people of the other villages referred to get their water from some distant and filthy *bils*; but even these are fast drying up. The District Board should lose no time in excavating wells in these villages.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Mar. 16th, 1897.

25. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 16th March complains of the prevalence of acute water-scarcity in Mankar, a village in the Burdwan district. All the tanks in the village have run dry, and their water has been fouled. The District Board should dig a few tanks and wells in the village. If some of the Battacharyya tanks be re-excavated, water-scarcity will be removed.

BANKURA DARPAN,
Mar. 16th, 1897.

26. The *Gangajalghati* correspondent of the *Bankura Darpan* of the 16th March says that all tanks and other reservoirs of water in the place have dried up, and the little water that can be found has become poisonous and is undrinkable. The thana well alone contains drinkable water. The people's sufferings from water-scarcity have, indeed, become very great. On the Magistrate lately visiting the place, the situation was represented to him, but he told the people to sink wells by raising subscriptions among themselves.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Mar. 17th, 1897.

27. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 17th March regrets the unusually keen competition which prevailed at the last election of Commissioners for the Berhampore Municipality. Attempts were made by many candidates to influence voters with temptations as well as threats. The result of the elections has not, therefore, been satisfactory, only seven or eight among the seventeen Commissioners elected being competent men. The object of the elective system is to get the most competent men to represent the masses, but that object is frustrated by party feeling and improper competition.

HITAVADI,
Mar. 19th, 1897.

28. The *Hitavadi* of the 19th March says that two municipal doctors, Babus Janmejy Chaudhuri and Fakirchandra Sadhukhan, induced, on the 12th March last, three sons of Babu Nilmani Mukharji of 9/2, Bancharam Unkoor's Lane, to submit to cholera inoculation by telling them that Government had ordered their inoculation. When the boys were so inoculated their father was not at home. So far as the writer knows, cholera inoculation is not compulsory under any law or rule, and it was extremely wrong to induce the boys to submit to such inoculation by false representations. Cholera inoculation has not yet proved itself efficacious. Distinguished physicians like Dr. Sanders are of opinion that it does more harm than good. Even in Europe such inoculation is not viewed with much favour. It would be, therefore, very inadvisable to try such inoculation on Indians.

HITAVADI.

29. The same paper says that the Commissioners of the Calcutta Municipality clearly proved, in their letter to the Bengal Government, that they did not deserve the censure which the Lieutenant-Governor had passed upon them in his Entally speech. But what of that? The Commissioners' presumption proved too much for the equanimity of the Lieutenant-Governor, and he has now sent a reply to the Commissioners' letter roundly asserting that they deserved the censure, and announcing, in no ambiguous language, his intention of substantially changing the municipal constitution. Judging from His

Honour's antipathy to the Commissioners, it does not appear that the contemplated change would not be unfavourable to self-government. When the Lieutenant-Governor's Entally speech was followed by a strong agitation, His Honour gave an explanation to the public and in a manner exempted the Commissioners from blame. But now that a fight has become inevitable, he has entered the lists against the Commissioners, and has sought to overcome them by legal casuistry. For showing this partisan feeling His Honour will forfeit the esteem of the public. Now that the Lieutenant-Governor has announced his intention of substantially changing the municipal constitution, the public should beware, and, if necessary, make an agitation. As for the Commissioners, will they pocket this new affront? They will do well to resign in a body.

30. A correspondent of the same paper complains of great water-scarcity in the village of Sumurdia within the Chaudanga subdivision of the Nadia district. An appeal to the Subdivisional Officer for the re-excavation of a tank in the village has borne no fruit. It is hoped that the District Magistrate will attend to the matter.

HITAVADI,
Mar. 19th, 1897.

31. The *Pratihar* of the 19th March cannot support the conduct of certain Government officers in Berhampore, who took sides at the late municipal elections. Government officers, and specially Hakims, should keep themselves aloof from *daladali* in such matters.

PRATIKAR,
Mar. 19th, 1897.

32. The same paper advises the District Board of Murshidabad to reduce the pay of the post of District Engineer to Rs. 250 a month, and devote the saving that will be thus made to water-supply. The condition of the District Fund does not justify the maintenance of the present salary.

PRATIKAR.

33. The *Saraswat Patra* of the 20th March writes as follows regarding the late municipal elections in Dacca:—

SARASWAT PATRA,
Mar. 20th, 1897.

The Dacca Municipal elections. The reign of the Rai Bahadur has at last come to an end. The elections in Dacca were held last Saturday silently and without fuss. There was no canvassing, and no undue influence was brought to bear upon the voters. Those who foresaw that they had no chance, left the field beforehand; and those who stood as candidates seemed to know that they would succeed. There was thus no contest at all. The voters seemed to be guided by some unseen influence in giving their votes. All this was good, so far as appearances went. But it is for those who know how to feel the pulse of Local Self-Government to say if this was a sign of health in the institution.

34. The *Bangavasi* of the 20th March has the following, with reference to the Lieutenant-Governor's reply to the Municipal Commissioners' protest against His Honour's Entally speech:—

BANGAVASI,
Mar. 20th, 1897.

The Lieutenant-Governor's Entally speech offended the Babu Commissioners. They passed a resolution protesting against it, and sent a copy of it to the Lieutenant Governor by way of telling him that he had done something very wrong, and that the Babus would severely deal with him if he did not confess his error and begged their pardon. The militant attitude of the Commissioners did not, however, frighten the Lieutenant-Governor, and he has given them a sound whipping—smack! smack! smack! The Municipal Commissioners have now been served right. Let no one think that we do not sympathise with the Babus. We do pity them. It is a regret, however, that they should not listen to our advice and should not cease to brag of their *begar*. Slaves as you are, is it at all seemly that you vie with the Lieutenant-Governor and try to be his rivals? It is a pity that even the big Babus have not yet learnt the A B C of politics, and cannot see the distinction that lies between politics and begging.

35. The *Sanjivani* of the 20th March suggests that new broad roads should be constructed to improve the sanitary condition of Calcutta.

SANJIVANI,
Mar. 20th, 1897.

Suggestions for the improvement of the sanitary condition of Calcutta.

There are lanes in Calcutta too narrow to allow conservancy carts to enter them, and are

consequently not properly cleansed. Streets 12 feet broad, with footpaths on one side 3 feet broad, should be run through the heart of these quarters. Besides widening these narrow lanes, it is necessary to construct several broad streets through the heart of the town :—

- (1) Old Court House Street or Mission Row should be extended northward as far as Champatola or Kumartoli Ghât, and these joined to the Strand Road. The new street to be so formed, should be as broad as Mission Row or Old Court House Street.
- (2) Halliday Street should be extended northward as far as the Bagbazar Bridge, and southward as far as Free School Street.
- (3) Amherst Street should be extended southward as far as Loudon Street, through the Taltala Bazar, and northward as far as the Dum-Dum Bridge at Ultadingi.
- (4) A new street, 70 feet broad, should be constructed from the Kalighat bridge to the Molla Alika Darga at Dhurumtolla. This Street should run through the Baliganj thana, Matla Railway Bridge No. 4, Ghughudanga Road, Puddapukur Road and Entally Road. This new road may be further extended up to the Alipore Courts.
- (5) Camac Street and Lansdowne Row should be joined to this new road.

The Municipality should undertake the broadening of the narrow lanes in the town. The Commissioners can do this without overburdening the rate-payers if they buy land fifty feet wide, and afterwards sell the surplus land at enhanced prices. The work should be finished in five years.

The construction of the six new roads mentioned above should be taken up by the Government. These will beautify the town, facilitate trade, increase the habitable area of the town and improve its sanitary condition. The Bengal Government, or the Government of India, should bear the cost of their construction, the Municipality taking charge of them. The Lieutenant-Governor in his Entally speech laid stress on the sanitary importance of constructing new broad roads. It is to be hoped that His Honour will earn the gratitude of the people by undertaking the construction of the proposed roads.

In course of time the price of land in the central part of Calcutta will become prohibitively high, and people will remove to the suburbs. The Municipality should buy up land in the suburbs for the construction of roads before they are densely crowded with houses.

Instead of broadening the roads running east and west, such as Dhurumtolla Street, Bowbazar Street, Colootolla Street, new streets running east and west should be constructed between them in order to ventilate some of the most insanitary quarters. There should be one such road between Bagbazar, Grey Street and Sobhabazar; two between Sobhabazar, Grey Street and Beadon Street; two between Beadon Street and Mechuabazar; one between Colootolla Street and Bowbazar Street and two between Bowbazar Street and Dhurumtolla Street.

The Government cannot be expected to take up the construction of all the roads at once. The present Lieutenant-Governor may take up the construction of the roads which will run north and south, leaving the construction of those that will run east and west to a future Lieutenant-Governor.

CHINSURA
VARTAVAHA,
Mar. 21st, 1897.

36. The *Chinsura Vartavaha* of the 21st March complains of utter mis-

management in the Hooghly-Chinsura Municipality. An amin got a forged bill of Rs. 112 passed by the Municipal Office. This speaks sadly of the efficiency of the Municipal Commissioners. Are they equally careless and blind in their personal transactions? The Ward Commissioners also are as unmindful of the interests of the rate-payers as the Commissioners in charge of the office. The rate-payers have been for the last three years raining applications, so to speak, upon them. But they have not so long paid any attention to these applications. They do not even know what has become of them. Most of the Commissioners have no leisure to inquire into the grievances of the rate-payers. If so, why do they at all become Commissioners?

It is a pity that utter mismanagement prevails not only in the smaller but also in the larger municipalities. It is urgently necessary that the rate-payers should this time be a little more careful in electing Commissioners.

37. The same paper complains of the prevalence of acute water-scarcity in the villages of Naldanga, Kanagarhi, Panchrakhi, &c., in the Hooghly district. The Hooghly is at a distance of two to three miles from these villages, and there is no other source of water-supply.

Water-scarcity in some villages in the Hooghly district.

CHINSURA
VARTAVANA,
Mar. 21st, 1897

38. A correspondent of the *Som Prakash* of the 22nd March complains that cholera has broken out in Santipur in the Nadia district, but the Municipality is doing nothing to prevent its spread. Dirt is accumulating in the streets in the Chairman's absence. The Vice-Chairman takes Rs. 10 per month for town inspection. But where is he now?

Cholera in Santipur.

SOM PRAKASH,
Mar. 22nd, 1897.

39. A correspondent of the *Dacca Gazette* of the 22nd March complains of want of good drinking-water in the village Mulpara, in the Rupganj thana of the Dacca district. Almost all the old tanks in the village dry up in Falgun and Chaitra, and those which contain a little water are filthy in the extreme, and become full of worms. The villagers are suffering from diarrhoea in consequence of drinking this water. The District Board should re-excavate Gangadhar's tank in the middle of the village. It is likely that its owners, who are engaged in domestic quarrels, will not easily give up the ownership, but the Board should induce them to do so. The names of the owners are—

DACCA GAZETTE,
Mar. 22nd, 1897.

Umacharan Chakravarti of Machimpur.
Nabin Chandra Chakravarti of the same village.
Prasanna Kumar Bhattacharyya of Mulpara.
Srinath Bhattacharyya of the same village.
Chandra Kumar Bhattacharyya of the same village.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

40. The *Sahachar* of the 17th March hopes that the Government will listen to the reasonable prayer of the landholders of Orissa for an introduction of the permanent settlement in that province. The Government could have reasonably delayed the introduction of the settlement if there had been any chance or prospect of the land in Orissa making further improvement and of thereby yielding a larger revenue. The zamindars have in their petition conclusively proved that there is no probability of any further expansion of the land revenue from agricultural improvements. All cultivable land in Orissa has been brought under cultivation, and the forests that still remain are never likely to be converted into arable land. As for the railway under construction enhancing the prices of food-grains, the zamindars have shown that the effect of the railway construction has nowhere been in the direction of a raising of these prices, and has in certain places been in the direction of lowering them. Considering these arguments and the fact that many experienced retired revenue officers are in favour of introducing the permanent settlement in Orissa, it is hoped that Government will grant the prayer of the Orissa zamindars.

SAHACHAR,
Mar. 17th, 1897.

41. The *Hitavadi* of the 19th March says that immediately after the death of Jaiprakash Lal, Dewan of the Dumraon estate, and before the Dewan's dead body had been cremated, the Subdivisional Officer of Buxar went to the Raja's house attended by a police guard and looked up the Raj treasury, the Raj office and the Raj record-room, affixing seals to the locks. The Subdivisional Officer said that he did this at the order of Government. The locked-up offices and rooms have since remained locked up and been guarded by armed policemen, so that the business of the estate is at a standstill. The Rani proposed that the estate should be managed by Hariprasad, the son of Jaiprakash Lal, as Dewan, with the assistance of a council of educated persons. This proposal has been rejected. Government, it is said, wishes to appoint an

The Dumraon estate.

HITAVADI,
Mar. 19th, 1897.

English planter as manager of the estate. It would be extremely wrong to forcibly appoint an Englishman as manager of a Hindu zamindari. Government should plainly state whether it has any objection to the appointment of Hari-prasad, or of Visweswar Dayal, the Deputy Dewan and an old servant of the estate, as Dewan. The Rani has given proof of administrative ability, and it would be wrong to reduce her to a cypher by appointing an English manager.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

SAMAY,
Mar. 19th, 1897.

42. A correspondent of the *Samay* of the 19th March complains of serious inconvenience to railway passengers at the Asansol station on the East Indian Railway. There is no waiting room for native passengers, the tin shed meant for their use giving them no proper accommodation. The station is infested by thieves, and passengers waiting in this shed at night are often robbed. There are a few rooms near the station which were formerly used by passengers. But they are now shut up and barricaded by the railway authorities. There is no shop or hotel near the station, and food and refreshment are not at all available. Passengers by the Bengal-Nagpur line have to wait here for a long time, and they keenly feel this inconvenience and hardship. If the Railway authorities let the rooms near the station to passengers for fees, they will confer a boon on them, whilst making some income themselves.

SANSODHINI,
Mar. 19th, 1897.

43. The *Sansodhini* of the 19th March complains that palkis cannot be taken to the Sita Kund railway station, and women have consequently to walk the whole distance. Drinking water is not available in the stations, and there is no waiting room for passengers.

SANSODHINI.

44. Bipin Chandra Pal, who was a passenger on board the India General Steam Navigation Company's steamer on the morning of the 8th March last, makes the following complaints:—

- (1) Railway passengers have to wait two hours for the steamer.
- (2) No one is allowed to go on board the steamer without a ticket, which is issued half an hour before the steamer starts.
- (3) There is no light at the landing-place. This causes great inconvenience and annoyance to female passengers.
- (4) There is a dirty tin shed at the *ghât* meant for a waiting room. The two compartments of this shed are not lighted, and passengers stumble upon steamer coolies lying in the dark, and are therefore growled at by the latter.
- (5) Passengers have now to carry their luggage first to the *ghât* and then to the steamer, and not at once to the steamer, as they used to do before. This causes passengers additional trouble and expense.
- (6) The steamer is not properly lighted, thus causing great annoyance to female passengers.
- (7) There are no cabins for upper class passengers. There is a dark and dirty enclosure serving for a cabin.
- (8) There is not a secluded place in the steamer for female passengers. The khalasis and the male passengers freely make their way through the place ostensibly set apart for female passengers.
- (9) The khalasis do not properly behave to the passengers, and annoy them in various ways.

It is to be hoped that the Pabna District Board, which subsidises the steamer, will take note of these complaints of the steamer passengers.

(h)—*General.*

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Mar. 16th, 1897.

45. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 16th March observes that the hill exodus is not a new thing in this country. The Mogul Emperors used to go to Kashmir during the hot season. It has been urged that during the prevailing distress the Government should postpone the hill exodus, with a view to make a saving of expenditure. The writer has no sympathy with those who make this proposal. It

will be wrong and inadvisable to force the Viceroy to boil in the grilling heat of the plains. It is absolutely necessary that the Viceroy should keep himself in good health and temper, which he cannot do in the heat of the plains. The Viceroy should, therefore, go to his hill retreat with his chief advisers, but he should not take a large establishment with him. The public offices should not follow the Viceroy to Simla. In these days the post and the telegraph have facilitated communication between Simla and Calcutta, and the Viceroy can keep up communication with the officers in Calcutta without the least inconvenience or difficulty.

46. The *Gaur Varta* of the 16th March complains that the last tour of the Commissioner of the Bhagalpur Division caused great hardship and inconvenience to many in Malda

GAUR VARTA,
Mar. 16th, 1897.

A tour complaint.

town —

- (1) Fishermen were prevented from fishing in the Mahananda with the usual thumping noise made to drive fish towards their nets.
- (2) Music was strictly prohibited at night. A *nautch*, for instance, was stopped in the house of a local mukhtar so much as half a mile distant from the circuit-house.
- (3) The public were prevented from using the latrine near the western gate of the Court building.
- (4) Cart traffic was stopped on the Rajmahal road on the day on which the Commissioner left for Rajmahal.

47. The *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 18th March says that England seems always ready to impose any amount of military taxation upon India, in spite of the protest of her people, for the purpose of increasing

DARUSSALTANAT
AND URDU GUIDN,
Mar. 18th, 1897.

Government's military expenditure.

the army in India, in order to avert the possible danger of a Russian invasion. She knows fully well that poverty and famine have already reduced the Indians to skeletons, and still she feels no compassion for them. Sir Henry Brackenbury, in giving his evidence before the Welby Commission, rightly said that he could not justify the Home Government's policy of holding India singly responsible for any expenses, ordinary or extraordinary, which are incurred for the maintenance of the British occupation of India. The fact is that when the Home Government wants the Government of India to raise money for feeding British subjects, the Government of India extorts money from the poor people of India.

48. The *Basumati* of the 18th March publishes a cartoon on the hill exodus. An Indian raiyat, representing the Indian tax-payer, is bearing on his shoulders, towards the

BASUMATI,
Mar. 18th, 1897.

The hill exodus—a cartoon.

hill, four Englishmen seated on a huge block of wood, evidently representing the Viceroy and his colleagues. The Indian is groaning under the burden, and a peon is triumphantly leading the way.

The following appears in the letter press:—

The Indian tax-payer.—How heavy they are! They are too heavy to bear. I cannot bear their burden. I feel exhausted under the load, and my blood is drying up in my veins.

The peon.—Do not be making noise, you unfortunate fool. Make haste. Time is up. Huzoor is angry with us all.

The Englishman on the back of the Indian tax-payer.—Make haste, you *suar ki bachchha*; do not vex me. The heat is killing. This is your loyalty!

The Indian tax-payer.—In winter you ride (बैठ) on my back. In summer you mount upon (चढ़) the hill. By day you ride (बैठ) the horse, and at night you drive (बैठ) in a carriage. It is riding which you understand best, and you look only after your own interests. So, it is useless for me to cry. If I survive the famine and the plague, I shall bear you again on my back.

49. The *Hitavadi* of the 19th March writes as follows:—

HITAVADI,
Mar. 19th, 1897.

Unlike Europeans, the people of this country have a dislike for hospitals. A dying native wishes to have his dear ones near him, and nursing by hirelings is repugnant to a native patient as well as to his friends and relatives. Natives are besides treated very differently from Europeans in hospitals. They, therefore, shudder at the very name of a hospital.

The plague policy of Government.

Epidemics of various kinds there have been in the world for a long time. It does not appear that the bubonic plague is more dangerous or infectious than small-pox and some other epidemics. The majority of the people of this country are, therefore, of opinion that the arrangement for the segregation of patients infected with the bubonic plague is the result of a panic, and nothing more. Long experience has also convinced them that all attempts to check official oppression in this connection will prove unavailing. They, therefore, see nothing in the plague regulations except an opportunity for the officers, big and small, to extort bribes from the people and a cause for anxiety, as well as loss of money and honour to the people.

The authorities have not yet fully realised the alarm and uneasiness which have been created by these regulations. The authors of these regulations cannot even dream that what they have done with the best of intentions can possibly be a source of harm to anybody. They are, therefore, unable to realise the alarm and uneasiness of the people who, though they appreciate the motives which have prompted these regulations, cannot yet appreciate their usefulness.

It is natives who suffer most from medical inspection on railways, and yet, as the *Englishman* tells us, it is first class European passengers who ridicule and oppose such inspection most. Will the authorities once consider what the feelings of common natives, who think differently from Englishmen in many matters, must be, when the feelings of Englishmen who appreciate the object of these inspections are no better than this? Natives will not venture to oppose such inspection, and if they do, they will be easily brought to their senses. But these regulations will create a dissatisfaction which will bode no good either to Government or to the people.

It is a matter of surprise to natives how Englishmen, who are a nation of heroes, turn such cowards at the very name of the plague. The people of this country have no doubt that the plague regulations are owing to that cowardice. National sentiments differ so widely that what Indians deem mere caution is regarded by Englishmen as cowardice, and what Englishmen deem caution is regarded by Indians as cowardice. But it is not our object here to complain of such differences in people's ways of regarding the same things. We are grateful to Government for its efforts to prevent the spread of the plague, but we are extremely uneasy at the prospect of the oppressions which are sure to be committed.

50. The same paper has the following :—

Government in the plague and
Government in the famine.

Both plague and famine are now raging in the country. Let us see which is the worse evil.

Famine is regarded with alarm by the people; the plague is regarded with alarm by the Government. What have Indians, in their present circumstances, to fear from the plague? What worse horrors can plague have for them than the pangs of hunger which they themselves and their parents, brothers, sisters, wives and children are suffering? If the plague has killed its thousands, the famine has killed its lakhs. Say which is the greater—famine or the plague?

Even the authorities admit that the plague has not made its appearance in India in a violent form, whereas it is admitted on all hands that the famine is not a bit less terrible than any of its predecessors. And yet it is the former which is causing Government more anxiety. We should have been glad if Government had done for the relief of famine even a hundredth part of what it is doing for the suppression of the plague.

The plague, as we have already said, threatens the lives of the rulers of the land. No wonder, therefore, that the plague should cause them more alarm than the famine. Have the lives of the people then no value? Are the lives of loyal subjects, who are ready to die for their rulers, so utterly worthless? We do not know what value Government sets upon the lives of natives. But we cannot help suspecting from Government's attitude in the famine that it sets very little value on the lives of its native subjects. We cannot help feeling that native life is utterly valueless in its eyes, for if the lives of its native subjects had any value in its eyes, it would have tried to check the famine at its very commencement. As soon as the plague made its appearance, Government made stringent regulations absolutely regardless of the honour of the people, and adopted a thousand precautions to prevent its spread. Why was

nothing of the kind done in the matter of the famine? Alas! could this conflagration have been kindled in the country if Government had looked upon natives as human beings, and if it could have in the least realised what the agony of death from starvation is?

What have Indians to fear from the bubonic plague? What have those to fear from it who have cholera, small-pox and malaria as their constant visitors? If the officials had not been in fear of losing their own lives from the plague, and if Europe had not been alarmed at a prospect of its visit, such efforts would never have been made to prevent its spread. No, not even if all India had been made one vast stretch of desolation.

The famine has done immensely more mischief than the plague. Compared with the famine, the plague is nothing. We therefore supplicate Government with joined hands to make greater efforts for the relief of distress. Let more than half a crore of famine subscriptions as well as Government's own relief allotment be so spent that not one man may die of starvation. Government is powerless to check the ravages of the plague, but it can put a stop to the famine. The plague is confined to a small area, and has killed but 3 or 4 thousand victims, whereas famine is carrying off lakhs. It is thus clear that famine is more dreadful than the plague. Let no one suppose that we advise Government to do nothing to prevent the spread of the plague. What we say is that Government has not shown, for the relief of distress, even a hundredth part of the concern and anxiety which it has shown for preventing the spread of the plague. If instead of making the plague regulations Government had ruled that the Magistrate in whose district any one should die of starvation should be condignly punished, the people of this country would have probably been very glad, and blessed it heartily with uplifted hands.

51. The same paper has the following:—

Prince Ozan's allowance.

Prince Ozan is a Burmese prince whose father was a great friend of the English Government. Government granted the prince's father a monthly pension of Rs. 1,100, which was, on his death, reduced to an allowance of Rs. 350 for the prince's mother and one of Rs. 135 for himself. When the prince's mother died, Government stopped her allowance. In consequence of this the prince's two sisters and other relatives, who lived upon that allowance of Rs. 350, were thrown into great distress, and the prince, who is now receiving his education in the Doveton Institution, applied to Government for its renewal, stating that it might be stopped when he was able to earn for himself. But what do our readers think Government did on receiving this application? It stopped even the prince's allowance. Government has stopped this petty allowance to the family of a friend, but it gladly pays immense monthly allowances to turbulent Afghan sardars who often give it great trouble.

52. The same paper says that Government's reply to the Hon'ble Balwant Rao Bhuskate's interpellation on the subject of the new order for a larger employment of Eurasians and domiciled Europeans in the Accounts Offices was of the usual character. This order, it was alleged, had been issued to give effect to a recommendation of the Public Service Commission. But that Commission certainly never meant that incompetent Europeans and Eurasians should be appointed in preference to deserving natives, and if the Commission's recommendation is such, it is opposed to the Queen's Proclamation, which should have far more weight with Government. But we hear from a trustworthy source that Government has privately promised to countermand the order.

53. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani* of the 20th March complains of the plague inspection at Khana Junction. The police constables pull down female passengers from the train and roughly handle them in making them stand up in a line. Thus annoyed, insulted and roughly handled, they are inspected on the platform by a female doctor. This inspection by a female doctor, after such handling by police constables, is a farce. Mr. Risley says that it is impracticable to inspect female passengers in the train. European female passengers however, are examined in the train, and one cannot understand why native female passengers cannot be similarly examined. If,

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however, native female passengers cannot be examined in the train, female inspectors should be employed to help them in coming down from the train and standing in a line.

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54. Referring to Dr. Martin's discovery of the prevailing practice of falsification of age among school-boys, the same paper observes that this practice prevails not only among school-boys, but among the majority of the natives of this country. Many have two horoscopes, one true and another false. The best remedy for this falsification of age is compulsory registration of births. People should be compelled to register the births of their children at the police-stations or Sub-Registry Offices. No fee should be charged for such registration. In examinations in the case of appointments and in applications for pensions copies of birth registration entries should be required.

Birth registration.

SANJIVANI.

European employes in the Comptroller's Office.

55. The same paper is not satisfied with Sir James Westland's reply to the interpellation regarding the Comptroller's notification about the employment of Europeans and Eurasians in his office. Sir James pleads equality. But will not Eurasians and Europeans practically monopolise the higher posts in the Comptroller's office? There is one European in every two thousand Bengalis. But in the Comptroller's office nine out of 18 high-grade posts are occupied by Europeans who are better paid than Bengalis, but are far less efficient than they. If it is equality that is aimed at in the Comptroller's notification, why is no mention made in it of Hindus and Musalmans?

SANJIVANI.

The plague notification for whole Bengal.

56. In the opinion of the same paper, the plague notification published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 17th instant will strike terror into the hearts of the mufassal people. This notification will lead to oppression of ignorant people, and may also cause disturbances of the peace when plague patients will be forcibly removed from their houses.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Mar. 21st, 1897.

Mr. Skrine's resignation.

57. The Government, observes the *Dacca Prakash* of the 21st March, posted Mr. Skrine to an unhealthy Division and did not grant him leave when asked for. This is the reason why he has resigned his post. Mr. Skrine is a very good man, and his retirement will be a loss to the people as well as to the Government.

SOM PRAKASH,
Mar. 22nd, 1897.

High-handedness of a Civil Surgeon.

58. The *Som Prakash* of the 22nd March complains of the conduct of the Civil Surgeon of a district. A man accidentally died in a village, and the Police Sub-Inspector sent the dead body to the Civil Surgeon for *post-mortem* examination. The deceased's brother accompanied the dead body. The cart in which the body was carried returned after depositing the body at the morgue. *Post-mortem* examination over, the Civil Surgeon ordered the deceased's brother to take away the body, but he said that as there was no cart, he could not do so. There ensued an exchange of words, and the Civil Surgeon whipped the poor man who was mourning his brother's death. Even a drunkard or a lunatic would not have acted so heartlessly.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

HITAVADI,
Mar. 19th, 1897.

59. The *Hitavadi* of the 19th March says that no sensible man will deny that a good deal of mischief is being done by rain-gambling, and the sooner the Bill for its suppression is passed into law the better.

The Rain-gambling Bill.

HITAVADI.

The proposed Religious Endowments Bill.

60. The same paper says that the Hon'ble Mr. Ananda Charlu has, with great ability, met the objections of Government to the introduction of a measure for the protection of religious endowments. The writer has learnt from a trustworthy source that Government will not oppose the introduction of Mr. Ananda Charlu's Bill.

Indeed, no one can object to the Bill in the form in which it has been framed. However nervous Government may be about interference with the people's religion, it cannot reasonably object to the Bill. As a matter of fact, the Bill introduces no innovations: it simply proposes certain improvements in the existing law relating to Religious Endowments, Act XX of 1863.

This law which was passed thirty years ago has been found defective and ineffectual in operation, as every law must prove after that length of time. The public are convinced that the Act of 1863 is powerless to check mahants. It is so feeble and defective that it is greatly to be doubted whether it has done the least good during the last thirty years. Indeed, its provisions have never proved effectual, nor were they calculated to be such. The very existence of the Act was unknown to the public before the present agitation on the subject of the abuse of religious endowments.

But the proposed Bill is defective on one point: it provides no safeguard against the waste of religious endowments for the defence of guilty mahants in criminal cases. This can be prevented by widening the scope of section 492 of the Code of Civil Procedure, so as to provide for the issue of injunctions in such cases. But whether the Bill provides such a safeguard or not, it should be passed into law without delay. Any defects which it may contain may be removed in future.

61. We are opposed to gambling, observes the *Bangavasi* of the 20th March, and would not object to its being put down.

BANGAVASI,
Mar. 20th, 1897.

The Rain-gambling Bill.

But suppress gambling in all forms and without any distinction whatever. It is, however, a great injustice that you should put down the gambling of the poor without interfering with the gambling of the rich. A native form of gambling, i.e., rain-gambling, is going to be put down. But what about gambling on the race course and in foot-ball and in cricket matches? Are not these European forms of gambling morally objectionable? All it is said are equal in the eye of the law. But the law, it now seems, makes distinction. This is certainly painful and disappointing to the people.

62. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 23rd March does not approve of the Rain-gambling Bill. Mr. Bolton said that

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Mar. 23rd, 1897.

The Rain-gambling Bill.

the public bodies which were consulted before the drafting of the measure were almost all in favour of it. Are not the opinions of the public bodies which opposed the Bill of any value? The *Englishman* opposes the Bill, and the European community does not seem to be in its favour. The *Englishman* argues that if the Bill is passed, Mr. Surendranath and his friends will call for the suppression of horse-racing. If the *Englishman's* opposition fails, the writer's opposition will certainly be of no avail. The public, however, will be offended if rain-gambling is stopped, and betting on the race-course remains unchecked.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

63. The *Saraswat Patra* of the 20th March cannot understand whether the

SARASWAT PATRA,
Mar. 20th, 1897.

The title of Raja conferred on the new ruler of Independent Tippera.

Government has done honour or dishonour to the present ruler of independent Tippera by conferring on him the title of Raja. The ruler of this State has always borne the title of Maharaja.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

64. The *Charu Mihir* of the 15th March says that 36 men of the villages Narulla, Gajibari, Baghil, Mandariabari

CHARU MIHIR,
Mar. 15th, 1897.

Distress in the Mymensingh district.

and Bhattabari, and 47 men of village Samatpur, within the jurisdiction of the Gopalpur thana in the Mymensingh district, submitted petitions to the Magistrate, drawing his attention to the severe distress from which they were suffering. The petitioners stated that some of them, with their families, were starving, and the rest were living on plums, pumpkins and potatoes, as they had no other food in their houses, and loans could not be obtained from the money-lenders. They asked for an enquiry by Government, and wanted food or loans of money without interest. A correspondent also has sent to the writer a long list of sufferers, containing the names of 21 families of Baogha, 7 families of Salikha, 18 families of Sangram Simulia, 3 families of Kabirpur, 3 families of Khetri Baogha, 7 families of Atharabari, 15 families of Golabari, 8 families of Baktarpur, 3 families of Baharampur, 11 families of Srirambari, 4 families of Gajibari, 13 families of Bhagil, and 7 families of Panbari, each containing on an average not less than seven members. Some of these

families are getting one meal a day, or one meal every other day, others are keeping body and soul together by eating greens, pumpkins, arum, and tamarind water. All these families are the raiyats of the Pukhuria zamindars. According to the same correspondent, Bhoja Sekh, Saphina Baoah, Saim Sekh, Gaher Sarkar, Jamsi Sekh, Dilu Mandal, Meanjan Sekh, Madari Sekh, Bejari Sekh, Hayaru and Nakari Sekh, of Samatpur, are starving, and notwithstanding the representations of the press and the people, no enquiry has been held or relief given; petitions asking for relief are forwarded to the zamindars; but if the zamindars or their men had any sympathy with the raiyats, the latter would not have come to this pass. The correspondent asks if it is not famine when people are themselves living on fruits, and are giving their children tamarind seeds boiled in water, and if the existence of famine will be admitted only when deaths from starvation will have taken place.

The editor sees no reason to disbelieve either the correspondent or the petitioners, especially when they are all pressing for an enquiry. Mr. Harris should no longer sit idle, and deny the existence of distress in his district. The distress in Mymensingh is not certainly distress prevailing over the whole district, but that is no reason why those who are actually suffering should get no relief. It is hoped that Mr. Harris will, without delay, either hold an enquiry himself, or depute the Deputy Magistrate of Jamalpore or Tangail, or some responsible officer from the Sadar to make an enquiry.

CHARU MIHIR,
Mar. 15th, 1897.

65. The Pingna correspondent of the same paper reports the prevalence of distress in the villages Nalda, Mimso, Maighbari, Birhati, Bhuapur, Ispingarpur, Parakhali, Kurali, Pingna, Nalsanda, Ranpal and Baraipatal within the jurisdiction of the Gopalpur thana in the Mymensingh district. The labourers living in those villages are the greatest sufferers, either because they get no work, or because they receive remuneration which is inadequate to maintain them and their families. An enquiry and a starting of relief works are solicited.

BANKURA DARPAN,
Mar. 16th, 1897.

66. A correspondent of the *Bankura Darpan*, of the 16th March writing from Gangajalghati in the Bankura district under date the 9th March, sends the following list of persons who are starving:—

Hridaya Bauri, with a family of four.
Rami Bamini.
Kokil Bauri (blind).
Gopi Bauri (blind).
Tara Chand Bauri (lame).
Sricharan Bauri (lame).
Lalua Bauri.
Jiban Bauri.

The correspondent possesses the names of many others who are starving. Prompt relief should be given to these men.

GAUR VARTA,
Mar. 16th, 1897.

67. The *Gaur Varta* of the 16th March complains of the prevalence of distress in the Malda district, specially in that portion of it which is called Barendra. A famine-relief committee has been formed in Malda, but it has not yet begun work, and both the Commissioner and the District Magistrate are of opinion that there is no scarcity in the district. It is true that there prevails no very great distress in those places where people live chiefly by arts and industries and upon crops other than the rice crop, but scarcity prevails more or less throughout the district, and acute distress prevails in Barendra, which depends chiefly on the rice crop which has not been more than eight annas this year. Of this crop, however, very little has been left to the raiyats, the mahajans and the zamindars having taken the lion's share of it. The mahajans have extorted exorbitant interest, and the zamindars are exacting more than their dues. It is therefore no exaggeration to say that about eighty per cent. of people are suffering from acute distress in Barendra. It is also clear from the statistics published in the *Calcutta Gazette* that the prices of rice in the district are not lower than those in districts where relief works have been opened.

Distress most prevails in the Nawabganj and Gomastapur thanas, where people are living on wild roots and plants, and many have been driven from

home by starvation. The following villages are most affected by the prevailing distress:—(1) Kaliganj, Nayagola, Palsa, Baliadanga, Jaynagar, Nachol, Singrail, Apura, Dhunatorh, Ghatwal, Mullikpur, Fatepur, Gobratola, Hariampur, Panditpur, Suryyapur, Danpara, Balukapara, Phulbari, Mahpur and Dhainagar, all in the Nawabganj thana, and (2) Gomastapur, Rahanpur, Haritola, Chandpur, Gopalpur, Satkundri, Ohhutipur, Sonaichandi, Sonadanga, Parbati-
pur, Dadpur, Najarpur, Kalairah, Rukunpur, Lakshmipur, Jasil and Jinapur, all in the Gomastapur thana.

The writer does not wish to raise a false alarm and make an agitation. He hopes that the Magistrate will take his representations into his consideration.

68. The *Sahachar* of the 17th March says that it is not the failure of

SAHACHAR,
Mar. 17th, 1897.

Real cause of famine in the Central Provinces.

the rains but the revenue system which is primarily responsible for the present famine in the Central Provinces. Those provinces do not enjoy a permanent settlement of the land revenue like Bengal. Temporary settlements are made there at most exorbitant rates of rent, the rent which is realised going partly to the public treasury and partly to the malguzars as commission. The malguzars must, on the due date, pay into the Government Treasury all the revenue for which they are responsible, no matter whether they can realise from the raiyats their own commission or not. They, therefore, realise from the raiyats, by hook or by crook, before the date of the *kist*, at least the Government's share of the revenue. To meet this demand, the raiyat has often to undersell his produce, which might have fetched a higher price a little later on. If the raiyat fails to meet the malguzar's demand his tenure is immediately put up to auction. As a matter of fact, many villages in Jubbulpur and some other districts have of recent years become depopulated in consequence of the raiyats failing to stand the rigour of the revenue system and therefore deserting their lands and homes. Even in a year of famine like this revenue has been remitted only in certain places, but is being levied with more than ordinary rigour in other places. The poverty brought upon the raiyats and the malguzars by the rigorous revenue system, combined with this year's failure of rains, has produced the present calamity.

69. The same paper writes as follows:—

SAHACHAR.

Christian missionaries in the famine.

The way in which Christian missionaries some times increase their flock is highly reprehensible. The conversion to Christianity by enlightened Christian missionaries of orphan boys and girls, unable to judge for themselves, cannot, indeed, be too strongly condemned. The Missionaries are, of course, to be thanked for taking charge of helpless children in times of distress, and their action would have deserved the highest praise if they had waited till the children grew to maturity before converting them to Christianity. According to a correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, missionaries are just now converting orphans in Jhansi. Even the *Pioneer* has censured the missionaries for this conduct, though not because it considers such conduct wrong, but because it fears that such conduct might offend the orthodox Hindu community. According to the Famine Commission, orphan children thus circumstanced should be taken charge of by the Government. Government should give them food and also look to their moral well-being, but it should not convert them to Christianity. Lord Elgin's Government has made a departure from the rule laid down by the Famine Commission by throwing orphans upon public charity. It should, at any rate, see that the Christian missionaries who take charge of any such children do not convert them to Christianity.

70. The *Hitavadi* of the 19th March writes as follows:—

HITAVADI,
Mar. 19th, 1897.

Government on the famine.

The District Magistrate of Khulna has favoured us with the following reply to our enquiry about the alleged death of one Kailasmani Goalini from starvation:—

No. 3131, dated Khulna, the 13th March 1897.

From—W. H. H. VINCENT, Esq., Collector of Khulna,
To—The Editor of *Hitavadi*.

In reply to your letter dated 11th March 1897 and an article in the *Hitavadi* of the 12th regarding distress in the Kaliganj thana, I have the honour to reply as follows:—

2. A woman, by name Koylasmani Goalini, is reported to have died from starvation at Kaliganj. She was an old woman without any means of subsistence. The case has been reported to Government.

As soon as the premonitory symptoms of famine appeared, we warned Government and told it that it would earn deep disgrace if even a single man died of starvation. But it paid no heed to us. It has been scouting from the very first the idea of a famine, and because it did not realise the situation and adopt timely precautions, people are now dying of starvation.

Although the distress is so severe the relief operations are not satisfactory. We are groaning under the burden of taxation. We are offering to Government our very heart's blood, and yet it is not propitious to us. Whenever any improvement is needed for our good, Government pleads want of funds. At the outset of the present famine, Government pleaded financial difficulty, if not in so many words. But when the colossal shadow of famine became visible to every eye, when the Indian public implored the charity of England, Government felt itself in a very awkward position. Lest the English public should call it to account for its prodigality, it declared that help from England was not needed for coping with the distress.

We should have had nothing to complain of if Government had not thus tried to hide its own fault, and if it had been open-handed itself in granting relief. But it has made no liberal grants for famine relief, and by trying to conceal its own fault has ruined the people.

A raging fire cannot be concealed under ashes. The horrid spectre of famine stalked about the land with its tongue lolling out. How should Government conceal it from the public eye? The people of England found out the Indian Government and began to raise subscriptions for the relief of India.

But though subscriptions are being collected and relief is being afforded by Government, skeleton-like figures are still perishing of hunger and thirst. Not one Kailasmani, but many Kailasmanis are dying of starvation. Those who have read history will be able to imagine what an agitation would have been produced by such an occurrence in England or any other civilised country. But no affliction is too grievous for the unfortunate subject people in India.

We are not sorry to die. Death stares us in the face every moment and it is a wonder that we live. But our one sorrow is that, though subjects of Queen Victoria, we should die of starvation. To Kailasmani death was no evil, but supreme bliss. The poor woman had the misfortune to be born in India and what wonder that she should have died of starvation? Kailas has gone to that peaceful region where death, sorrow and famine are unknown. And Kailasmani is not the only one who has perished so miserably. But, O English Government, yet take pity upon the people. Thousands of your subjects, afraid of losing their lives, look up to you with tearful eyes. We shall be extremely grieved if Europe blames you for your apathy.

HITAVADI,
Mar. 19th, 1897.

71. A correspondent of the same paper says that there is great scarcity of food and water in the Kaliganj and Asasuni thanas within the Khulna district. The people of Sainhati, Satkona, Sobhanali, Balapota, Ghusuri, Bareya, Rajapur, Champaful and some other villages within the former thana are receiving no help, although the distress there is not less severe than in the places where relief works have been opened. Many are living upon one meal, while some are living upon herbs and leaves. Even where relief works have been opened, the relief arrangements are not satisfactory. Many are not obtaining relief who deserve it, while many are receiving it, although they do not merit it. A man is considered worthy of relief only when he has lain at the door of the relief office for five or six days in rags, the very picture of famine. Our able Deputy Magistrate, Babu Gatikrishna Niyogi, is doing his best to relieve the scarcity.

HITAVADI.

72. Another correspondent of the same paper says that there is great distress among the cultivators in the village of Bagulat within the Kushtia subdivision of the Nadia district. Many do not get two meals every day, and some are obtaining meals after two or three days. The prospect is very

gloomy. Not even a 4-anna crop will be obtained. There are wails on all sides. There is also great scarcity of water, the Kaliganga being almost dry.

73. A correspondent of the *Sansodhini* of the 19th March gives the following list of starving people in the Anowara outpost

SANSODHINI,
Mar. 19th, 1897.

Famine-stricken people in a village in the Chittagong district.

of the Patia thana in the Chittagong district:—

Sacchanda, Basi (with a son of 12 years), Umatara, widow of Jurmani (with two daughters and an old mother-in-law), widow of Ramgati (with two children), Chandra, Amba, Ganga, Rajeswari, Brinda, Renuka, Maganeswari, Rajeswari, Tripura, Tarini, Purna, Sacchiram, Ramdayal Hari, Kusi, Maheshi (with two children), Bisweswari, Parameswari (with two children and another woman), Parameswari (with three children and another woman).

74. The travelling correspondent of the *Sanjivani* of the 20th March complains of the prevalence of distress in the Nadia

SANJIVANI,
Mar. 20th, 1897.

Distress in the Nadia district.

district:—

Raghunathpur.—People are faring very ill in this village. The condition of the agriculturists is extremely miserable. Most of them have been reduced to skeletons. The Musalman raiyats are worse off than their Hindu brethren. An able bodied raiyat has, as a rule, to support five or six persons with two annas per day. How to support a family with this pittance, has become an insoluble problem with him. The condition of poor *pardanishin* women baffles description. Most of them used to live by husking paddy, but their occupation is gone. Begging does not pay, and the weak and the diseased are being slowly starved to death. Water scarcity also prevails.

Bilwagram.—The middle classes are in acute distress. In many houses there has been no cooking for several days. The labouring classes, too, are in distress, and are living on wild roots and plants. The *Gulas* and the *Bagdis* are in a miserable condition. Water scarcity prevails.

Nakasipara.—Relief works have been opened. Mr. Garrett, on a second visit to these works, thought that there were too many employed on them and receiving gratuitous relief. The Police Sub-Inspector in charge of the distribution of relief was transferred. The new police Sub-Inspector was instructed not to distribute relief. A new man has been appointed for the distribution of relief, but the relief circle, he is to be in charge of, has not yet been fixed. But delay is dangerous, and relief arrangements should at once be made. The resolution that police officers should not be entrusted with the distribution of relief may bear good fruit. The people are in dread of the police, and they prefer starvation to taking relief at the hands of police officers. It appears from the books of the Police Sub-Inspector that the people who came to take relief at the police-station did not turn up the next day. The daily number of those who came to take relief, did not exceed fifty or sixty. This is unsatisfactory.

An old woman has died from starvation at Barhagachhi. She long managed to live by gratuitous relief received from the Bikrampur relief circle. The relief circle was transferred to Dhubi, and the old woman could not walk the whole distance. She was reduced to starvation, and died. Distress also prevails in Banpalasi, where the raiyats have sold off their cattle. The low wages on relief works are not drawing a sufficient number of labourers. At Gopalchandpur a family was found to be in great distress. There had been no cooking in the house for several days, and a boy was crying for rice. Water scarcity prevails in the following villages:—Rajpur, Palasdanga, Mrijapur, Sultanpur, Gholdanga, Kamalbat, Khidirpur, Jagadanandapur, Bikrampur, Kantalbari and Banpalasi.

75. A correspondent of the same paper writes that acute distress prevails in the Satkhira subdivision of the Khulna district.

SANJIVANI.

Distress in Khulna.

Many have been reduced to skeletons. The middle classes are suffering most severely. Relief works have been opened on a small scale at Kaliganj and Asasuni. Water scarcity in many villages.

76. Another correspondent of the same paper complains that people are dying from starvation in some villages in Sitamarhi,

SANJIVANI.

Distress in Behar.

the Government and the Darbhanga estate relief works notwithstanding. The police, however, is reporting these deaths from

starvation as deaths from disease. A few days ago, a starving woman was about to lay her head on the rail when a train was approaching.

SANJIVANI,
Mar. 20th, 1897.

77. Another correspondent of the same paper complains of the prevalence of acute scarcity at Jhansi. Hundreds of families are in distress, and many are living on one meal a day. Many are also starving, the local relief committee notwithstanding. The Government has reduced the rate of gratuitous relief, thereby causing great hardship and inconvenience to distressed people. Hundreds of children have become orphans. Their condition is extremely miserable, and the relief houses do not take proper care of them.

Distress at Jhansi.

SANJIVANI.

78. A special correspondent of the same paper complains of the prevalence of acute distress in the Central Provinces. At Mahadevpur, near the Satna railway station, the correspondent came across several starving people in acute distress. They will die if not speedily relieved. One Lathura Kacchi and his son have died from starvation. The family are in great distress. Many other people of the same caste were in great distress. Dhubarhi is a neighbouring village in the Rewa State. The Raja Saheb has made a gift of this village to his guru, and is not prepared to feed its starving inhabitants. Many are starving for several days in this village. Those that are a little well off are living on *mahua* and husks of linseed. Hundreds are living on grass. The same is the case at Galbal. Starvation has driven many from their homes. Hundreds are starving for many days and have been reduced to skeletons. At Unchera a relief house has been opened by the Maharana. It is very badly constructed, and it does not protect its inmates from the weather. The people are almost naked, and have to sleep on the ground on beds of straw. The inmates are served with one meal a day. The children get an additional meal in the morning. There seems to be no caste distinctions here. Hunger has levelled down all such distinctions. The State is poor, and is not in a position to feed the starving people long. Hundreds of uncared for orphans are met with. A dead body was discovered near the railway station. The poor man had evidently died from starvation.

Distress in the Central Provinces.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Mar. 20th, 1897.

79. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 20th March has learnt of the prevalence of distress in some places in the Basirhat subdivision of the 24-Parganas district. Many people are going without food for two or three days at a time, and many cultivators have eaten up their seed-grain. As the season for sowing the *aus* crop is at hand, it is feared that many cultivators will not be able to sow their lands for want of seed-grain. Government should come to the help of these people.

Distress in the 24-Parganas.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

HITAVADI,
Mar. 19th, 1897.

80. The *Hitavadi* of the 19th March gives a picture of the mahant of Sitakunda dressed *à la mode* and writes as follows:—

The Mahant at Sitakunda.

This man is a mahant. He is Kisorimohan Van, the mahant of Chandranath in Sitakunda. Let those who have seen an ascetic mahant of the old type—one of those figures with shaven heads and in *gerua* cloth—gratify their eyes by looking at this foppish figure and reflect on the present state of society.

Ah! how beautiful Kisorimohan looks in his foppish dress. His dress exceeds even the most voluptuous dreams of a voluptuary. Look at the watch on his breast, at the stick in his hand, at his shoes and stockings and at his damask coat. Diamond rings sparkle on his fingers, and a gold chain glitters on his breast. And how beautiful is the thin border of his cloth!

This mahant has a roguish smile on his lips, and has rolling restless eyes and a voluptuous gait. Could not a tank be re-excavated, could not guests be fed and gods be worshipped with the money which has gone to the purchase of all this foppery? It was not surely to enable the mahant to dress like a dandy that the founders of the shrine made endowments for its support.

81. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 20th March says that the recent murder of an Englishwoman in Lahore by a Ghazi is the result of Englishmen abusing the Sultan in connection with the Armenian massacres. The

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Mar. 20th, 1897.

The moral of the Ghazi's murder in Lahore.

Musalman will patiently submit to any insult, except an insult to their religious chief, an insult to whom they regard as an insult offered to Islam itself. Most probably, the Ghazi committed the offence because he was offended with the Feringhis for abusing the Sultan. If so, the situation has become really alarming, and what the writer predicted has come to pass, namely, the English have incurred the displeasure of the Musalman community.

The Ghazi's act has greatly frightened the *Englishman* newspaper. It says that if another murder of this kind takes place, the political consequences will be very bad indeed. It need not be stated in so many words that by bad political consequences the *Englishman* means a rebellion. The *Englishman* accordingly exhorts the Government to follow its Barisal policy in Lahore, and deprive all Lahore people of their firearms.

The *Indian Mirror*, too, is venting its spleen against all Peshwaris. It is advising Government to deport all Peshwaris from India, and make it a capital offence for any deported Peshwari to come back to this country. It wants Government to be hard against Peshwaris because it thinks that Peshwaris generally come to India for purposes of plunder and extortion. Like the *Englishman* it is also afraid of a rebellion, and it is warning Government of the danger it is running into by admitting into its army men who may, at any moment, turn into Ghazis.

Everyone will now see how grave and critical the situation has become. God only knows what is in store for India. India's sky is becoming darker and darker. Famine and plague are decimating the land, and failure of rain has become a frequent occurrence. Over and above this, a rebellion, according to some, is impending!

ASSAM PAPERS.

82. The *Paridarsak-o-Srihattavasi* for the 2nd fortnight of Falgun 1303 B.S. observes that Mr. Cotton, the new Chief Commissioner of Assam, is very well disposed towards the vernacular press of the province. He is taking

Mr. Cotton's attitude towards the vernacular press in Assam.

eight copies of the *Paridarsak-o-Srihattavasi* for the Government offices, and has ordered that Government advertisements should henceforth be published in this paper. The new Chief Commissioner is trying his best to acquaint himself with the grievances of the people, and he knows that the vernacular press is their organ and faithfully represents their interests. It is to be hoped that Mr. Cotton will long rule the province, and leave marks of his liberal principles stamped upon the Assam Administration.

PARIDARSHAK-O-SRIHATTAVASI,
for the second fortnight of Falgun, 1303 B.S.

83. The same paper observes that Sylhet is by far the most important district in Assam. It is the most enlightened and densely populated district. There are no less than a hundred graduates in Sylhet. There are very few

Sylhet's claim to the Assam public service.

graduates in the Surma Valley districts. On all these grounds, Sylhet ought to be given more than half the posts in the public service. This is, however, not the case. The *Times of Assam* complains that the Assamese are not fairly represented in the public service, and that the Sylhet people are responsible for this. These captious remarks are evidently malicious, and they will not certainly be heeded by the Assam Government.

PARIDARSHAK-O-SRIHATTAVASI.

A correspondent writes as follows in English on the same subject:—

It is with a feeling of profound regret and unqualified disgust that I perused the literature of this unhappy controversy regarding the note of alarm raised by your correspondent in connection with the foul machination that is said to be in fermentation somewhere in the wilds of Assam, for excluding the natives of Sylhet from the public service of the province. But all such wicked attempts should be treated with supreme contempt in the historical words of King Edward—

"Evil to him that evil thinks."

As regards the allegations made by your correspondent, the accusation preferred by him before the bar of public opinion supported by a marvellous array of facts and figures,—I have nothing to say, but I would only commend them to the unbiased judgment of my educated countrymen.

Whatever that may be, this controversy has furnished a suitable opportunity to our veteran champion of public interests of Assam to pour forth venom on the unfortunate victims of his wrath from behind the screen of anonymous correspondence.

He has delivered himself of a wild rhapsody, the like of which it has never been my lot to come across. It raises before our mind the picture of a blind man furiously beating about the bush. He has not the courage to gainsay a single statement of fact, refute a single argument, demolish a single proposition of your correspondent, but he indulges in a wild jargon. His sword is sharp, but it cuts through the cloud.

But I challenge this august patriot to cite a single instance in which the prospects of an Assam gentleman in the public service have suffered at the hands of his official superior, who being a native of Sylhet was influenced by party spirit or class interest; or that undue preference has been given to a native of Sylhet, overlooking the legitimate claims of an Assam candidate; or that the editor of the paper abused its opportunities in belittling the just claims of a particular class or community. I feel myself therefore at my wit's ends to discover the motive of this mighty wrath, and I have been sometimes at pains to assign a satisfactory reason to this unprovoked hostility on the part of your contemporary, but I have been at last led to believe that, like Iago's villainy, it is purely a "motiveless malignity." Although it is far from our desire to court enmity from any part whatever, we are not afraid of any when it is thrust upon us. The natives of Sylhet require no prop. He is at liberty to assail us with facts and figures, and expose vagaries if there be any; but why this mud and dirt of a country swain? Our person is simply bespattered; we are not hurt. If he has any grievances against the natives of Sylhet, let him ventilate them through the columns of his paper instead of entertaining anonymous correspondence containing filthy rubbish.

But our attitude is quite different: we deplore this division in the camp. Our conviction is that if we are to hold our own against this rushing influx of strangers in the public service of our province, we must stand shoulder to shoulder, back to back and make one common cause with all the natives of the province, forgetting our sectarian bigotry and class prejudices. Fair field and no favour is our motto, and we would like to enjoin the same in the educated young men of our province. It is true that we want to rely upon the avowed principle of Government that the fruit of the soil must be to the children of the soil; but there is this qualification, that other things must be equal, in other words, they must equip themselves with the necessary outfit to enter the service of Government. Efficiency of the service cannot be sacrificed in favour of class interests. First deserve then desire, is an old maxim which our friends will do well to lay to their heart.

It was Sir Charles Elliott who pandered to the caprices of these spoilt children of Government, and suffered them to dance upon the shoulder of their too indulgent patron; but as soon as Sir Alexander Mackenzie assumed the reins of Government, they received a rude shock from the effects of which they seem to have hardly recovered. But what is sauce for the gander is also sauce for the goose, and I conclude in the words of Sir Alexander—If you desire to share the loaves and fishes of the State, self-help should be your only motto.

A. DASS.

Another correspondent (in English):—

The English editorial published in the last issue of the *Paridarsak and Sribhattarasi* anent the Assamese crusade against the Sylhet clerks at Shillong is interesting. Your remarks are not only quite pertinent, but absolutely correct. The worthy editor of the *Times of Assam* not being able to refute the arguments or disprove the facts published by *Veritas Acerba*, apparently sought the help of

a hireling, and at once found materials to fill up three columns with the vilest abuses against yourself and your countrymen. But who is this "Vox Populi" of Assam? It seems you have very rightly conjectured his identity. He cannot be a pure Assamese. He is, if we are correctly informed, no other than that well-known cross-breed who is an Assamese in Assam and a Bengali in Bengal. He is, therefore, as Sir Lepel Griffin would say *Dhobika kutta, na nagarka na gharka*. Your countrymen, Mr. Editor, may well laugh at the effrontery of his calling you Bengal cheese or by any other name to cover the shame of his suspicious birth. I must, however, tell you that it is not he alone, but there are a few other mischievous Bengalis who are pulling the wires from behind the screen, and are doing all they can to create a division in your own camp.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 27th March 1897.

